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20
21 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
22
23 FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

24

25 **LESLIE ARTHUR BYRD,**

26 Petitioner,

27

v.

28

ROBERT J. HERNANDEZ, WARDEN,

29 Respondent.

30 08-CV-0651 JM (AJB)

31 **RESPONDENT'S REQUEST FOR
32 STAY OF ALL PROCEEDINGS
33 PENDING ISSUANCE OF THE
34 MANDATE IN *Hayward***

35 Magistrate Judge: The Honorable
36 Anthony J. Battaglia

37

38 **INTRODUCTION**

39 State inmate Leslie Arthur Byrd filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus contending
40 that his due process rights were violated by the Board of Parole Hearings' 2006 decision finding
41 him unsuitable for parole. This Court ordered Respondent R. J. Hernandez, Warden of Richard
42 J. Donovan Correctional Facility at Rock Mountain, to file a response to the Petition. On May
43 16, 2008, the Ninth Circuit granted en banc review in *Hayward v. Marshall*, 512 F.3d 536 (9th
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1 Cir. 2008), reh'g en banc granted, __ F.3d __, No. 06-55392 (9th Cir. filed May 16, 2008).^{1/} The
 2 en banc court in *Hayward* may decide whether this Court has jurisdiction over this case, and the
 3 appropriate standard of judicial review to be applied by the Court in the event there is
 4 jurisdiction. Therefore, Respondent requests a stay of all proceedings in this case pending the
 5 issuance of the mandate in *Hayward*.

6 **ARGUMENT**

7 **I.**

8 **THE COURT SHOULD EXERCISE ITS DISCRETION AND STAY THIS
 9 MATTER PENDING ISSUANCE OF THE MANDATE IN *Hayward*
 10 BECAUSE BOTH THE BALANCE OF THE INTERESTS AND
 CONSIDERATIONS OF JUDICIAL ORDER AND ECONOMY FAVOR
 GRANTING A STAY.**

11 A trial court has discretion to ensure the just and efficient determination of a case by
 12 staying it pending the resolution of other proceedings where a stay would be “efficient for [the
 13 court’s] docket and the fairest course for the parties.” *Leyva v. Certified Grocers of Cal.*,
 14 593 F.2d 857, 863 (9th Cir. 1979). In determining whether to grant a stay, a court should
 15 consider the possible damage that may result, the hardship or inequity that a party may suffer,
 16 and the orderly course of justice, in terms of simplifying or complicating the issues, proof, and
 17 questions of law, that could result from the issuance of a stay. *Lockyer v. Mirant Corp.*, 398 F.3d
 18 1098, 1109, 1111 (9th Cir. 2005). A court should also take into account the existence of similar
 19 cases that are pending in the same district court, and the probability that more are likely to be
 20 filed. *Id.* Staying cases that are on the forefront of an issue provides a necessary delay, allowing
 21 for resolution of the issues and resulting in uniform treatment of like suits. *Id.*

22 As the resolution of *Hayward* could significantly, if not dispositively, impact this case
 23 and numerous similar cases and issuing a stay would prevent unfairness and serve the interests of
 24 judicial economy, the Court should therefore exercise its discretion and stay this matter pending
 25 the issuance of the mandate in *Hayward*.

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- 28 1. A true and correct copy of the en banc order is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

1 **A. Moving Forward with this Case Before the Finality of *Hayward* Does
2 Not Serve the Interest of Judicial Economy.**

3 Granting a stay in this case serves the interests of judicial order and economy. On May
4 16, 2008, the Ninth Circuit granted rehearing en banc in *Hayward*. (Ex. 1.) At issue before the
5 en banc panel in *Hayward* are two threshold issues which are necessary to the resolution of this
6 case: 1) whether California has created a federally protected liberty interest in parole for life
7 inmates, and 2) if a liberty interest is created, what process is due under clearly established
8 Supreme Court authority. Resolution of these issues could establish that Petitioner does not have
9 a federally protected liberty interest in parole, potentially allowing the Court to dismiss his
10 claims for lack of jurisdiction without requiring briefing from the parties. Moreover, it would be
11 wasteful to proceed in this case without the Ninth Circuit's holdings in these matters, as the
12 parties would need to brief issues that will be decided en banc and then submit supplemental
13 briefing to apply the law as clarified in the en banc decision. The two rounds of pleadings may
14 unnecessarily complicate the matters raised and would impair the orderly course of justice.
15 Waiting for the resolution of *Hayward* would thus conserve Court resources, and prevent the
16 Court from having to revisit this matter if *Hayward* is modified or reversed.

17 A stay would also serve judicial order and economy by maintaining uniform treatment
18 of like suits, as once the law is settled it can be uniformly applied. In many habeas petitions
19 challenging California parole decisions, the Ninth Circuit has sua sponte stayed submission of
20 the cases until the resolution of *Hayward*. *See, e.g., Tolliver v. Carey*, no. 07-15347; *Boatman v.*
21 *Brown*, no. 05-16199; *Smiley v. Hernandez*, no. 06-55727; *Valdivia v. Brown*, no. 08-15650;
22 *Johnson v. Newland*, no. 04-16712; *Varner v. Brown*, no. 05-16029; *Johnson v. Finn*, no. 06-
23 17042; *Clark v. Shepherd*, no. 06-55065; *Cooke v. Solis*, no. 06-15444.

24 Granting a stay would therefore conserve judicial resources and serve the Court's
25 interest in orderly managing these proceedings.

26 **B. A Stay Would Not Unfairly Delay Petitioner in Pursuing His Claims.**

27 A stay of this case at the district level would not unfairly impose any additional or
28 otherwise avoidable hardship on Petitioner. As discussed above, if the parties proceed in this

1 case additional briefing will likely be needed after the decision in *Hayward*, perhaps delaying
 2 final resolution. Also, even if this court decides this case before *Hayward*, it is likely the losing
 3 party, regardless of who that would be, will file an appeal, and that appeal would likely be
 4 delayed pending resolution of *Hayward*. (See Arg. I.A.) Thus, Petitioner would not be unduly
 5 burdened if the Court issued a stay.

6 **CONCLUSION**

7 When the equities are balanced, the parties' interests and the interests of judicial
 8 economy support staying this case pending the final resolution of *Hayward*. Staying this case
 9 until challenges to *Hayward* are resolved and that decision becomes final promotes the orderly
 10 resolution of this matter, and will assist in maintaining uniformity of like suits pending before
 11 this Court and similar cases that will be filed in the future. Respondent therefore requests that
 12 the Court exercise its discretion to stay all proceedings in this matter pending issuance of the
 13 mandate in *Hayward*.

14 Dated: June 11, 2008

15 Respectfully submitted,

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 Attorney General of the State of California

17 DANE R. GILLETTE
 Chief Assistant Attorney General

18 JULIE L. GARLAND
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19 HEATHER BUSHMAN
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22 /s/ Gregory J. Marcot

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 Deputy Attorney General
 Attorneys for Respondent

25 GJM/scb

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 SD2008700418

EXHIBIT 1

FOR PUBLICATION

MAY 16 2008

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

RONALD HAYWARD,

No. 06-55392

Petitioner - Appellant,

D.C. No. CV-05-07239-GAF(CT)

v.

ORDER

JOHN MARSHALL, California Men's
Colony East,

Respondent - Appellee.

KOZINSKI, Chief Judge:

Upon the vote of a majority of nonrecused active judges, it is ordered that this case be reheard en banc pursuant to Circuit Rule 35-3. The three-judge panel opinion shall not be cited as precedent by or to any court of the Ninth Circuit.

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY U.S. MAIL

Case Name: **Byrd v. Hernandez**

4 || No.: 08-CV-0651 JM (AJB)

5 | I declare:

6 I am employed in the Office of the Attorney General, which is the office of a member of the
7 California State Bar, at which member's direction this service is made. I am 18 years of age or
8 older and not a party to this matter. I am familiar with the business practice at the Office of the
9 Attorney General for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United
States Postal Service. In accordance with that practice, correspondence placed in the internal
mail collection system at the Office of the Attorney General is deposited with the United States
Postal Service that same day in the ordinary course of business.

10 On June 11, 2008, I served the attached **RESPONDENT'S REQUEST FOR STAY OF ALL**
11 **PROCEEDINGS PENDING ISSUANCE OF THE MANDATE IN HAYWARD** by placing a
12 true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the internal
mail collection system at the Office of the Attorney General at 110 West A Street, Suite 1100,
P.O. Box 85266, San Diego, CA 92186-5266, addressed as follows:

13 LESLIE ARTHUR BYRD
14 CDC # D-30420
15 RICHARD J. DONOVAN
16 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AT ROCK
17 MOUNTAIN
18 P.O. BOX 799006
19 SAN DIEGO, CA 92179-9006

17 | IN PRO PER

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on June 11, 2008, at San Diego, California.

S. Banks

Declarant

 S. Bernick
Signature

70127071.wpd